

Amendment To The Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph without prejudice:

[0019] FIGURE 5B is a top elevation view of the switch assembly shown in FIGURE 1, as taken along perspective arrow 4, illustrating the switch assembly having a pull configuration and being moved to an unlatching position for unlatching the door, according to another embodiment of the invention; and

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph without prejudice:

[0020] FIGURE 6 is a top cutaway view of the switch assembly shown in FIGURE 4, illustrating the switch assembly having a ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism with gas compression coupling, according to another advantageous embodiment of the claimed invention[[]; and]].

Please delete paragraph [0021] without prejudice.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph without prejudice:

[0032] Referring now to Figure 6, there is shown a top view of the switch assembly 14 shown in Figure 4, according to yet another advantageous embodiment of the claimed invention. This switch assembly 14 includes a ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism 56 coupled to the door handle 28 for decreasing the speed by which the door handle 28 is moved by the user. In this regard, the ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism 56 further increases the amount of time required to move the handle 28 from the switch-triggering position to the unlatching position. In this regard, the passive entry system 12 has additional processing time for verifying the authorization of the user and actuating the locking mechanism 24 to unlock the door 58 before the user moves the handle 60 to the unlatched position.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph without prejudice:

[0033] In the embodiment shown in Figure 6, the ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism 56 is a gas compression device. However, as ~~exemplified in Figure 7, the dampening~~ the damping mechanism 56 can instead be ~~a viscous fluid coupling or~~ various other suitable ~~dampening~~ damping mechanisms as desired.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph without prejudice:

[0034] In addition, it will be appreciated that the ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism 56 can be configured to resist movement of the door handle 28 only between the switch-triggering position and the unlatching position.